

# HOLD MASS MEETING ABOUT DIXON'S STAND

Veterans of Winnipeg Decide to Take Action—Will Canvas Constituency

To hold a public mass meeting as early as possible during the week commencing January 29, at which the attitude of F. J. Dixon, M.P.P., relative to registration for National Service will be considered, was the unanimous decision arrived at on Saturday evening at a special meeting of the executive council of the Army and Navy Veterans in Canada. The chair was occupied by Lieut.-Col. G. F. Carruthers, and in addition to members of the council there were present Major Prideaux, chief ordnance officer of M.D. 10; Capt. Crombie, 5th battalion; Capt. H. A. Seely, 256th battalion, formerly of the 8th; Lieut. Cockrill, 5th battalion; Lieut. Muirhead, 5th battalion; Lieut. Baker, 10th battalion; David Forrester, W. J. Tupper, K.C., and John R. Post, J.P., Greenridge. It was decided to ask the co-operation of the Great War Veterans in making the meeting a success.

Lieut.-Col. G. F. Carruthers explained that the special meeting had been called to consider the attitude of certain public men, F. J. Dixon, M.P.P.; R. A. Rigg, M.P.P.; Controller Puttee, Aldermen Simpson, Queen and Wighton, in publicly opposing National Service, but the subsequent discussion was confined to dealing with Mr. Dixon.

The chairman stated that Mr. Dixon's speeches regarding registration had been decidedly seditious and bordering on the treasonable. As a private citizen Mr. Dixon could be ignored, but he was the representative of a large constituency and was abusing his position. Mr. Dixon evidently acted on the hypothesis that he was sent to the house to represent the views of a certain small class, whereas he ought to represent and voice the views of the majority of the electorate. Certainly Mr. Dixon was not a representative of the Trades and Labor people, who largely dissented from his views, as was proved by the fact that hundreds of them were serving in the trenches and the vast majority had signed the registration cards.

Will Accept Challenge. Col. Carruthers declared that Mr. Dixon's views as a private citizen could be passed over, but when he publicly opposed registration, urged others not to sign the cards and reiterated those views from his place in the house, then it was the duty of loyal citizens to accept the challenge thrown down to them. Mr. Dixon could be said to represent only a small body of men who had taken shelter under the wing of the Trades and Labor party.

The chairman said he believed that the large majority of the aliens were peaceable, but when they saw and read of a British subject making statements in public antagonistic to National Registration and disloyal in character, and reiterating such statements in the house, then such aliens were emboldened to think that they could do the same.

The meeting should deal with Mr. Dixon's conduct in a purely judicial way, and it was desirable that they should not let their feelings of loyalty lead them into extravagances of language. The matter, however, should be dealt with firmly and with dignity, and he would suggest that a public meeting should be held for the purpose of inaugurating a plan whereby a thorough and systematic canvass of Mr. Dixon's constituency might be carried out and the electors asked to sign a petition requesting Mr. Dixon to apply the principle of the initiative, referendum and recall to himself.

## Majority of Aliens Loyal.

J. Hillyard Leech, K.C., expressed the view that the vast majority of the Austrians and Germans were loyal to Canada, but there was a considerable body who were not. He had 10,000 times more sympathy with the honest German or Austrian, who naturally did not want to be called upon to fight against his own countrymen, even though he was opposed to the military despotism of his native country, than he had for the lime-lighter and agitator, who fouled his own nest and uttered disloyal statements regarding the British empire.

It was the duty, said Mr. Leech, of loyal citizens to eliminate Mr. Dixon, who had publicly defied the law and urged others to do the same. His action was an insult to law-abiding citizens, and his speeches outside and inside the house had aroused the indignation of a patient and moderate people. If Mr. Dixon had conducted himself in a similar manner in most countries he would never have lived to do it a second time. Mr. Leech recommended the holding of a public meeting, preferably in Mr. Dixon's constituency, with representative speakers from the leaders of good citizenship in the constituency.

Veteran Joe Tennant expressed the view that trouble might arise from a certain disloyal element among the Germans and Austrians in the event of serious British reverses. The mass of the aliens were loyal, but others were, in his opinion, patiently waiting their opportunity, and the danger was that they might be fooled by the speeches of such men as Messrs. Dixon and Rigg.

J. Hillyard Leech proposed that a public mass meeting be held as early as possible in the week commencing January 29, and this was seconded by Veteran Sam Pearson.

## Should Have Walked Out.

W. J. Tupper, K.C., expressed the view that the speaker of the house had erred in allowing Mr. Dixon to continue his disloyal speech and that the latter should have been required to withdraw his statements and to seek the permission of the house to resume his speech. As an alternative, said Mr. Tupper, the loyal members of the house should have walked out in protest, leaving Mr. Dixon to address the empty benches. He felt a little diffidence in denouncing the action of Mr. Dixon because it would be suggested that politics entered into the matter, but if Mr. Dixon had been a Conservative, he, the speaker, would have spoken still more emphatically. He had that day seen a returned soldier in the General hospital, 22 years of age, paralyzed from the waist downward, and what must that man's feelings have been to read that Mr. Dixon, a member of the house, had declared that such sacrifice had been made in vain. Such language as Mr. Dixon had used, said Mr. Tupper, was unpatriotic, disloyal and disgraceful.

## Endorses Premier Norris.

John R. Post, J.P., a white-haired veteran of the Fenian raid, vigorously denounced Mr. Dixon as a traitor and said he should be in jail.

Veteran Chas. Midwinter declared that Mr. Dixon should either be incarcerated or placed against a brick wall. He agreed with Premier Norris that those who opposed National Service, and thereby prolonged the war by even a day, should be sent to prison.

Major Prideaux thought that the house was intentionally giving Mr. Dixon all the rope he wanted.

Lieut.-Col. Carruthers emphasized the fact that the Army and Navy Veterans was a non-political body, and was at all times willing to support any party which sought to maintain the loyalty and integrity of

the Dominion of Canada. Secretary Ed. Low, who has two sons at the front, declared that there was no politics or party in the matter—the only politics was to win the war, and that as speedily as possible.

# WAR DAMAGES IN FRANCE ENORMOUS

Fifteen Billion Francs Estimated to Restore Invaded Territories—Two Million Claims

Paris, Jan. 21.—Fifteen billion francs is the estimate most generally accepted as the total of war damages to public and private property in France, according to Georges Desplas, of the War Damages' committee of the chamber of deputies. Although prior to this war such damages were classed as catastrophes over which neither man nor government had any control, the general principle of indemnity for such damages whether by the invaders or by the home army was accepted by the chamber of deputies last year and a provisional sum of 300,000,000 francs already has been appropriated for immediate distribution.

Over two million claims are anticipated, a number so vast that it would take the 30 courts of the invaded departments of France about 178 years to settle them at their normal rate of procedure, says M. Desplas, in explaining to the Associated Press the bill now under discussion in parliament. "It proposes," he says, "the creation of temporary war indemnity tribunals somewhat similar to the courts of claims in the United States after the Civil war. Each canton and each department in the invaded region will have commissions which will appraise damages. The temporary war tribunals in each department will pass upon these claims, and in cases of contest, appeals will be made to a body called the higher commission, composed of members of parliament, justices of the supreme court, representatives of the different agricultural societies and various departments of the government, as already provided for by the law of July 20, 1915.

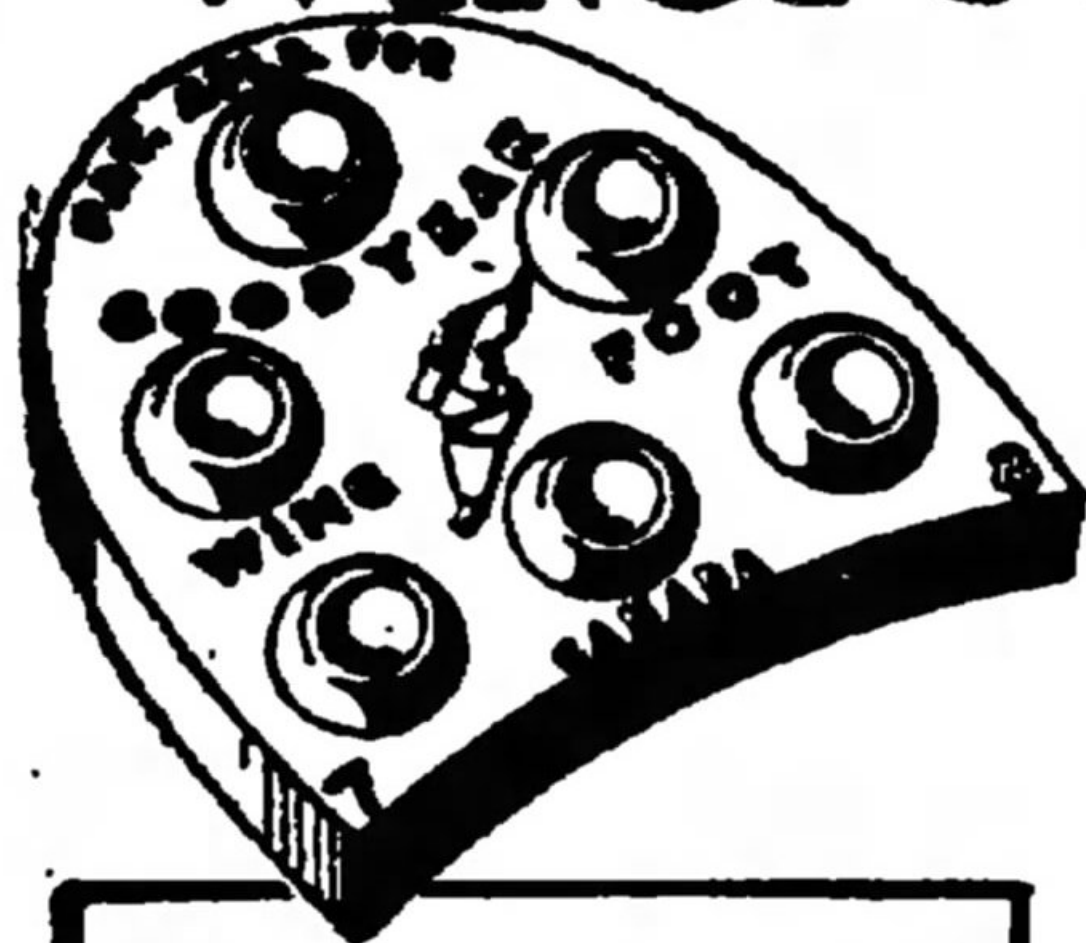
"The bill admits all property holders, corporations, departments and municipalities as well as individuals to the right to indemnities. It does not specifically accord the right to foreign property holders because such general principle would establish a precedent from which other nations would at once benefit without any prospect of a reciprocal advantage for France. As to neutrals and subjects of countries allied to France, it will be a question of treaties to be negotiated. In the main, since the only existing treaties that might be interpreted as entitling subjects of another country to the same rights as French citizens are with Switzerland, Spain and Denmark.

## Pre-War Basis.

The proposed law declares to be "War Damages": immediate damages caused by military operations of the German or allied troops, by fire, theft, pillage or as the result of enforced flight or captivity of the population or removal of their chattels by the enemy. The basis of the appraisal will be the value of the property before the war.

The re-employment of the sums paid as indemnities in the reconstruction or reconstitution of the property destroyed or damaged is one of the much debated articles of the measure. The object of it is to assure the re-

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